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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

OCA 88-2923

02 SEP 1988

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The Honorable Clarence E. Miller  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Director has asked me to reply to your note of 3 August 1988 on behalf of your constituent, [redacted] who expressed concern about letters to the editor on press allegations of involvement by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in teaching torture techniques.

The Agency has a policy of not commenting on press articles, especially personal opinion letters. As you know, all actions of the CIA are subject to the close scrutiny of the Intelligence Oversight Committees in the Congress. I would suggest that you direct any specific questions on the CIA to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

I am sorry that we could not be more helpful.

Sincerely,

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[redacted]  
John L. Helgerson  
Director of Congressional Affairs

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OCA [redacted] (31 Aug 88)

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**ROUTING SLIP**

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Remarks

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ER 88-3358X

Executive Secretary

29 AUG 88

Date

**3637** (10-81)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 3, 198<sup>8</sup>

*Respectfully referred to*

William Webster, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of Legislative Liaison  
Room 7-B24  
Washington, D.C. 20205

Please find enclosed a recent  
communication received by our  
office.

I would appreciate any informa-  
tion or assistance you can pro-  
vide us in this regard so that  
we may answer this correspon-  
dence.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Clarence E. Miller*

Clarence E. Miller  
Member of Congress  
Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20515



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Government in a program to cause the Administration has cited these very practices, claiming that they occur in Nicaragua and contending that they are reflections of repressive, totalitarian rule there.

JONATHAN ABADY  
San Francisco



J. B. DIEDERICH/CONTACT

Inés Murillo's story of torture in a prison in Honduras was known in 1983. She was interviewed by members of a delegation representing the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Americas Watch and the Washington Office on Latin America. Few in authority or the news media had much to say then. Five years and who knows how much suffering later, the Reagan Administration is on its way out, power is shifting and the political climate has changed. Now The New York Times presents the case with its overtones of shock and moral outrage.

WILLIAM COTTY  
Professor of Political Science  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Ill.

ambassador, stating that "allegations to the effect that death squads have made their appearance in Honduras appear to be entirely without merit."

Whatever Ambassador Negroponte may have said in private, his and the State Department's public statements could well have encouraged the death squads in their work.

JAMES LOBE  
Seattle

## TESTIFYING TO TORTURE

James LeMoyne's article "Testifying to Torture" (June 5), includes testimony of a sergeant in the Honduran Army who reports having been trained by the Central Intelligence Agency in Texas in various forms of psychological torture: forcing prisoners to stand for prolonged periods, keeping them naked in isolated cells.

This is significant not only because it implicates an agency of the United States

James LeMoyne notes that then-United States Ambassador to Honduras, John D. Negroponte, protested "privately" to Honduran officials about "some of the worst abuses" involving disappearances, but, like the C.I.A., mostly looked the other way.

When, in the fall of 1982, The Economist ran an article on the death squads in Honduras, Ambassador Negroponte took the trouble to respond with a lengthy rebuttal in which he concluded that "... it is simply untrue to state that death squads have made their appearance in Honduras." The State De-